

NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

April 27, 2015

The Norman Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Municipal Complex located at 201 W. Gray Street on April 27, 2015, at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were duly posted 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Lupe Davidson, Mary Lou Drywater, Kay Ham, Marjaneh Seirafi-Pour, Harry Wright

ABSENT: Commissioners Tamara Pullin, Jose Dela Cruz, Daniel Dukes, Amyie Kao

STAFF PRESENT: Kristina Bell, Jayme Rowe, Chief Keith Humphrey, Officer Ali Jaffery

OTHERS PRESENT: Nine guests: Braley Birch, Katy Kinney, Mason Chelootz, Nash Dickey, Henry Ratliffe, Michael Jackson, Kara Joy McKee, Abby Reid, Sean Braddy

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Item 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE APRIL 27, 2015, MEETING.

Commissioner Wright moved to approve the agenda of the April 27, 2015, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Seirafi-Pour, and the question being approving the agenda of the April 27, 2015, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Drywater, Ham, Davidson, Wright and Seirafi-Pour

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the agenda of the April 27, 2015, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission was approved.

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Item 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2014, NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Wright moved that the minutes of the October 27, 2014, Human Rights Commission meeting be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Drywater;

Items submitted for the record:

1. Norman Human Rights Commission minutes of October 27, 2014

and the question being upon approving the minutes of the October 27, 2014 meeting, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Davidson, Drywater, Ham, Wright and Seirafi-Pour

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the minutes of the October 27, 2014, meeting were approved.

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Item 4, being:

APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY OF THE DIALOGUE HOSTED BY THE 52ND NORMAN POLICE ACADEMY AND ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON MARCH 2, 2015.

Commissioner Wright moved that the summary of the dialogue hosted by the 52nd Norman Police Academy and attended by members of the Human Rights Commission on March 2, 2015, be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Drywater;

Items submitted for the record:

2. Summary of dialogue hosted by the 52nd Norman Police Academy and attended by members of the Human Rights Commission on March 2, 2015

and the question being upon approving the summary of the March 2, 2015, meeting, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Davidson, Drywater, Ham, Wright and Seirafi-Pour

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the summary of the March 2, 2015, dialogue was approved.

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Item 5, being:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FUTURE PROCLAMATIONS.

The Commission discussed upcoming Proclamations to be presented to Council. Those discussed were Latin/Hispanic Heritage month, Native American Heritage month and the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Commissioner Wright moved that a Proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act be forwarded to the Mayor and Council for presentation during the month of July, 2015; that a Proclamation recognizing Hispanic Heritage month be forwarded to the Mayor and Council for presentation during the month of September, 2015; and that a Proclamation recognizing Native American Heritage month be forwarded to the Mayor and Council for presentation during the month of October, 2015. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Seirafi-Pour and a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Davidson, Drywater, Ham, Wright and Seirafi-Pour

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried, and the Proclamations will be presented to the Mayor and Council.

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Item 6, being:

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE.

The Chair opened the topic of scheduling a future Inclusive Community Dialogue since this topic had been discussed during 2014. Commissioner Wright asked for clarification on the process of the Inclusive Community Dialogue. The Chair responded with a brief overview of the process

which is to convene a public meeting to discuss a specific topic and gather information from community members with an interest in the selected topic. Upon gathering the information, the Commission would review, catalog and summarize the information in order to present a report to the Mayor and Council for possible action. After discussion on past topics and topics that have been under consideration recently, the Commission discussed the possibility of holding an Inclusive Community Dialogue on the topic of Domestic Violence.

Additional discussion was held regarding the format and the possibility of collaborating with other agencies and groups to participate in the forum. Following discussion, Commissioner Davidson offered to contact the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies, Commissioner Wright will contact Susan Sharp and Commissioner Ham will contact the Women's Outreach Center. Everyone is requested to make those contacts by late June or early July so the Inclusive Community Dialogue could be scheduled for Fall, 2015. This would be appropriate timing since Domestic Violence Awareness month is October.

Commissioner Wright moved that the Human Rights Commission explore the possibility of holding an Inclusive Community Dialogue on Domestic Violence in the Fall of 2015 and to collaborate with other local agencies and groups toward this goal. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Davidson and a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Davidson, Drywater, Ham, Wright and Seirafi-Pour

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried and the item will be included on the July agenda for further action.

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Item 7, being:

DISCUSSION OF NORMAN UNITED'S MOVEMENT REGARDING ORDINANCE CHANGE:

The Chair mentioned that she had been contacted several weeks ago by Norman United, a local group that is in the process of requesting a change in City ordinances to specifically identify GLBTQ citizens of Norman as a protected class. The group is contacting business and church organizations to gather support on the issue. The Chair reported that she had contacted Councilmember Miller, whose Committee would review the suggestion and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council. During their conversation, the Chair reported that Councilmember Miller mentioned that the Committee might be able to review the suggestion in the late Spring or Summer of 2015. Commissioner Davidson asked if the Chairman had seen the draft of the ordinance and the Chair responded that she had not. It was suggested that the Commission

might want to table this item until a future meeting when a draft might be available for the Commission to review.

At this time, Commissioner Davidson moved that further discussion on this item be tabled until a future date, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Seirafi-Pour; and the question being to table further discussion on this item until a future date, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Davidson, Drywater, Ham, Wright and Seirafi-Pour

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the item was tabled to a future date to be determined.

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Item 8, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION:

At this time, the Chair recognized one of the guests at the meeting, Kara Joy McKee, who is part of a local, grassroots organization, Norman Racism Response Crew, that was formed several weeks ago to address and open communication regarding racism in Norman. Their goals, at the present time, are to have a hub for sharing local events regarding racism and social justice, a place to network for action when issues come up in the community, and provide a source for materials, tips, Q and A and connections with other citizens with similar viewpoints.

They have their first organized event scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd from 12:00 to 2:00 at Reeves Park. This is a meet and greet potluck lunch, and anyone is invited.

At this time, the Chair recognized another guest, Henry Ratcliffe, who offered additional comments regarding the proposed Inclusive Community Dialogue. He mentioned that he had just completed a project on the topic and had some statistics he would be glad to share with the Commission to help with the Inclusive Community Dialogue.

At this time, Commissioner Davidson shared that she will be assisting with Intergroup Dialogue Training on the OU Campus on June 8-9, 2015, and she will provide additional information to anyone who is interested.

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Item 9, being:

ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Davidson moved that the April 27, 2015, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission be adjourned, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Drywater; and the question being adjourning the April 27, 2015, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Davidson, Drywater, Ham, Wright and Seirafi-Pour

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the April 27, 2015, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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